

Minutes for the ABAC meeting of June 18, 2014

Board members present were Scott Smith, Ron Sender, Jack Johnson, Stephan Miller and Christopher Tonkin. Joey Glushko was also in attendance.

Approval of the minutes for the last meeting. The minutes for the ABAC meeting of May 21 were approved after being amended.

Report on the May 28 meeting to present the final report of the Toole Design Group. At this meeting a representative of the Toole Design Group talked about the corrections suggested for the final report made by the three bicycle committees. Joey told us that the corrections were discussed and all of them were incorporated into the report. The revised report will be accessible on the various Arlington bicycle web sites. We will also forward the completed report to the Arlington Selectmen. Jack said that now we should get to work on implementing the recommendations.

The tri-community meeting of June 7. Christopher told us that Peggy Enders would like to see the signage recommended in the Toole Report done by a professional. A signage working group was set up at the meeting. Another topic covered at the meeting was trash barrels. Joey thought that we should suggest appropriate locations for barrels so that we can make a proposal to the DPW and the Town Manager. Stephan suggested that we could further the cause by asking that the barrels be placed at truck accessible locations.

Joey felt that we should use the same strategy for signage. That is, selecting the location and submitting them to the DPW to make it easier to comply. Stephan suggested that we should decide on the content of the signs because that will be a factor in their placement. Joey warned us that the committee on Tourism and Economic Development is also working on way-finding signs and that we should make an effort to coordinate with them. Scott will look into what signs they are thinking of installing.

Scott told us that there are Federal standards for signage on Bikeways. He proposed that we follow those standards wherever we can. We decided that we would like the way-finding signs to indicate the town in which they are located and have a blue background. Scott outlined his thinking about what the content of the signs should look like. Jack would like to see distances to the Bikeway indicated on the signs located on the street. Jack also showed us a brochure that he received from the Rails to Trails Conservancy titled Rail Trail Safety Guide. He felt that this shows that the problems that we have with interpersonal relations on the Bikeway are universal.

Report of TAC activities. Scott reported on the Mass. Ave. Redevelopment Project informational meeting. He told us about some of the questions and concerns of the local residents. He felt that it was a long meeting, but civil. He also told us that the Lake St/Bikeway crossing is getting some attention. TAC simulations show that a light at the bikeway and a light at Brooks Ave. would result in a considerable improvement in flow of traffic on Lake St. He told us that this idea is under consideration by TAC but not yet recommended. Jack asked what timing is on the other stoplights along the Bikeway. Scott said that if the wait is 40 seconds or more, this would encourage noncompliance. Scott thought that a possible short term solution to the problem is a policeman directing traffic at that intersection.

Report on the Thompson School Cycling Education Program: Scott told us that he attended this event at the Thompson School presented by MassBike. He said that there was a lively exchange between students and instructors and that it was a useful exercise. Christopher asked if it will be

given at other Arlington elementary schools. Scott said that he thought the Hardy School will be next.

Medford/Arlington fall bike community event on Sunday September 7. Christopher told us that he would like to change the date and the working group is still planning the route. He also told us that the Medford Bicycle Commission has a nice web site that we should all visit.

July Bikeway user Counts. The next Bikeway user counts will be on July 8. Joey told us that she would like to see the cyclists category divided into female and male categories. Christopher, Stephan, Scott and Jack volunteered to participate.

Arlington community safety officers (cops on bicycles with education for bicyclists, COBWEB). Joey suggested that a representative of the COBWEB program come to our next meeting. We would like to open avenues of cooperation with these trained officers.

Town Day, September 13. Christopher will purchase a new Tent for the event. He also told us that the application has been sent in. Joey suggested that we emphasize visibility in the design of our booth. We thought an important issue to emphasize this year is bicycles and pedestrians using lights at night.

Other topics

The accident at the Gold's Gym entrance to the Bikeway. We discussed the design of that entrance and whether moving it would be advisable. Stephan thought that it is a valuable entrance to the Heights because the other exit to Park Ave is a stairway. We thought that cutting the knotweed at the entrance would make it safer. We decided to contact the owner of the property for a discussion. Joey will find out who owns the property.

Discussion of the Letter to the Board of Selectmen (BOS) endorsing the Green Routes Initiative we decided to send at the last meeting. We briefly discussed the content and form of the letter and agreed to accept Ron's changes.

*We voted on a motion to send the endorsement letter to the BOS. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:12

*Denotes that a vote of the board was taken.

Minutes submitted by Stephan Miller